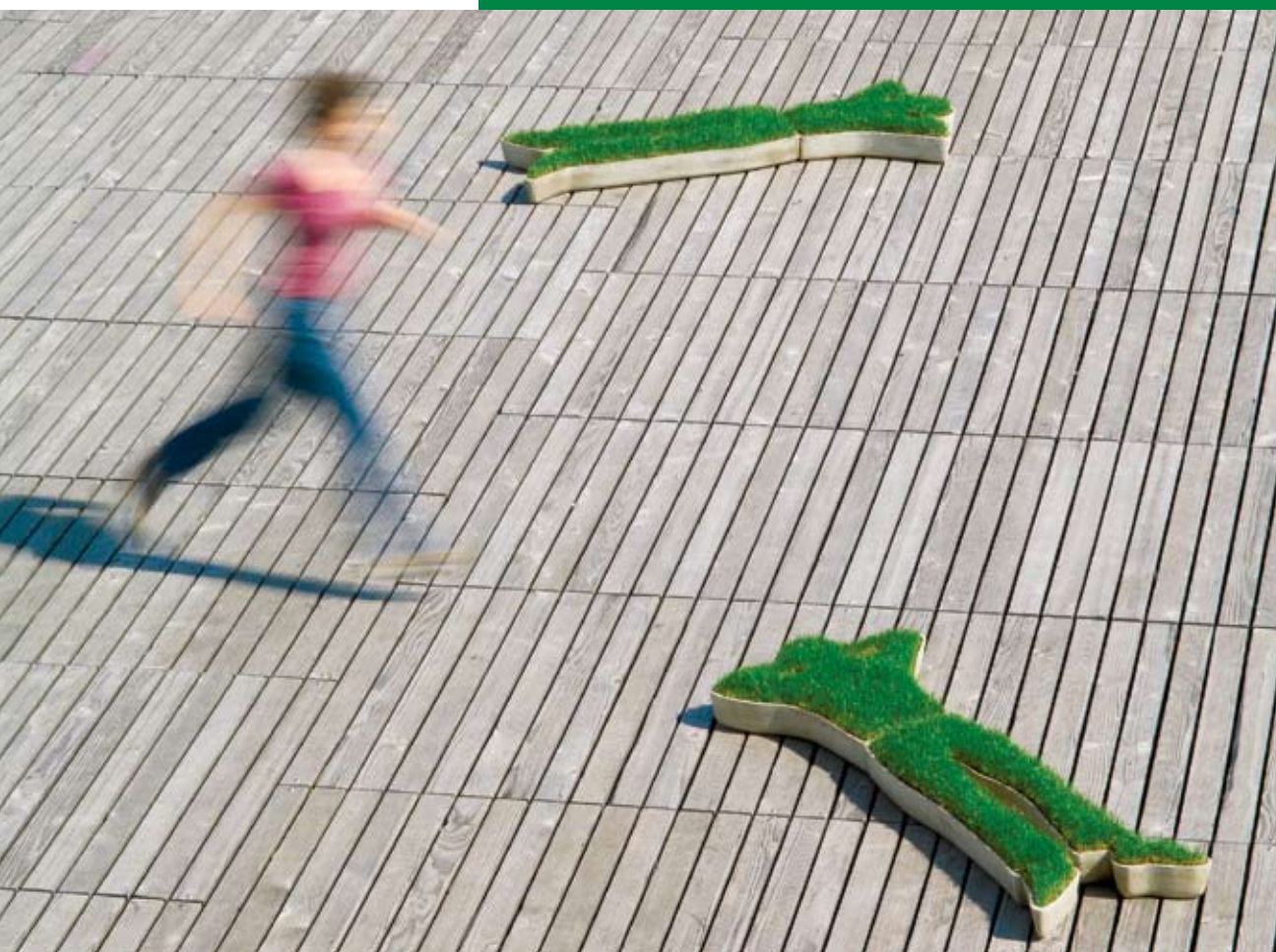


“Trawling the depths of design history, architecture and fine art, StauffacherBenz blend their knowledge of the industry with unique observations of daily life.”



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Around the benz

Text by Briony Downes

If you're looking for a company capable of adding a twist to everyday design, StauffacherBenz has its finger on the pulse. The inspired partnership of Swiss industrial designers, Stefan Stauffacher and Nicole Benz, StauffacherBenz, specialises in commissioned projects, conceptual design and handmade jewellery. Established in 2003, StauffacherBenz is a relatively new company yet their portfolio already boasts a strong, distinctive body of work ranging from appliances, furnishings, accessories, jewellery and trade fair stands.

Leaving their day jobs to pursue a lifelong interest in design, the creative minds of StauffacherBenz polished their skills during internships at HGK Zurich, Nose, Alfredo Häberli and Zemp&Partner. Now award-winning designers, echoes of their previous careers as a primary school teacher and biologist still reverberate through their design process. Benz is a highly imaginative lateral thinker with a knack for invention while Stauffacher maintains an analytical approach to design, rigorously developing concepts with a focus on precision and form.

While most of their projects are commission-based, StauffacherBenz also support their own line of jewellery. Fascinated by the intimate relationship between jewellery and the wearer, Stauffacher delves into storytelling and the emotive quality of the medium. "I love to combine narrative expression with clever technical materialisation," he says. Tiny silver charms and earrings delicately crafted from pinecones are mixed with pearls caught on fishhooks (aptly titled "Fisherman's Girlfriend") and glass orbs of magnetized iron dust. Most pieces are one-off or limited edition, a desirable aspect for connoisseurs of designer jewellery.

Trawling the depths of design history, architecture and fine art, StauffacherBenz blend their knowledge of the industry with unique observations of daily life. A dedication to creating long-lasting, sustainable products is paramount. "We attach great importance to quality of materials and outstanding workmanship," reveals Stauffacher. "We are simply not interested in fast moving gags." For distributors looking for tightly-resolved, accessible design that goes beyond the everyday, StauffacherBenz delivers with irrepressible verve.